

Sandwich Terns certainly turned up in the Puerto de la Luz, and three birds were obtained on the 28th of February, all in full winter plumage, which went with my collection to the British Museum (Ibis, 1912, p. 578). Meade-Waldo saw flocks of this species off Fuerteventura (Ibis, 1893, p. 206), and Webb and Berthelot (Orn. Canarienne, 1841, p. 41) give Lanzarote and Fuerteventura as its "habitat." I identified a bird in the Gonzalez collection which had been shot near Arrecife in Lanzarote (Ibis, 1914, p. 63).

I do not think *S. sandvicensis* breeds anywhere in the Archipelago, and the statement to this effect in the B. O. U. List of Birds, 1915, p. 268, is without foundation, and was doubtless taken from Webb and Berthelot's book (*supra*), which is long out of date.

*Range.* The Sandwich Tern breeds in Europe and is not known to nest south of Tunisia on the eastern side of the Atlantic. In winter it follows the west coast of Africa down to the Cape of Good Hope and round to Natal.

[To be continued.]

### XXXIII.—Obituary.

#### SIR WILLIAM MACGREGOR.

It is with great regret that we notice the death of the Rt. Hon. Sir William Macgregor, G.C.M.G., which occurred at Aberdeen on 2 July last. He was 72 years of age.

In Sir William Macgregor not only has the Empire lost a great colonial administrator but a most learned man in all branches of natural history and an explorer and geographer of great note. The son of an Aberdeenshire farmer, he was educated for the medical profession, and, like Cecil Rhodes, in order to save his life, accepted the post of medical officer at Seychelles, subsequently being promoted to Mauritius and Fiji.

Having acted for a time as High Commissioner of the Western Pacific, he was in 1881 appointed Administrator of British New Guinea, declaring Queen Victoria's sovereignty over the territory in September. He spent over

ten years in New Guinea exploring and developing the resources of the country. He was subsequently Governor of Lagos, of Newfoundland, and of Queensland, and retired in 1914 to settle in Scotland.

During his services in New Guinea Sir William made many journeys into the interior and explored the Owen Stanley range and Mounts Maneao and Scratchley. He made large collections of birds, which were sent to the Queensland Museum at Brisbane, where they were described by Mr. C. W. De Vis, partly in the Reports of the Museum and partly in the pages of 'The Ibis' between 1891 and 1897. Among many other wonderful discoveries were *Cnemophilus macgregorii*, figured on plate x. of 'The Ibis' for 1891, a new Paradise-bird from the Owen Stanley mountains; *Loria mariæ*, named after Lady Macgregor, from Mount Maneao, and figured on plate viii. of 'The Ibis' for 1895; *Macgregoria pulchra*, another Paradise-bird from Mount Scratchley, also figured in 'The Ibis' on plate vii. of the volume for 1897.

Another remarkable form, *Paranythia montium*, described by De Vis and figured in 'The Ibis' (1893, pl. vii.), was first obtained by Sir William in the Musgrave range. Its affinities appear to be near the Starlings, but it is now generally placed in a family by itself.

Sir William Macgregor will always be remembered as the great pioneer of the exploration of the interior of New Guinea. Personally one of the most learned and modest of men, his feats of daring and endurance will long be remembered by those who had the good fortune to be associated with him in New Guinea and elsewhere.

#### FRANCIS RICHARD SALISBURY BAXENDALE.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Mr. F. R. S. Baxendale, Commissioner of Larnaca, Cyprus, and well known to readers of 'The Ibis' for his contributions to the ornithology of that island. He was born on the 6th of September, 1860, at Maidstone, and was the eldest son of Richard Baxendale, Vicar of Willington. The church

of St. John stood in the park of the Earl of Romney, and in these delightful grounds Frank Baxendale first developed his innate love for natural history and sport. He was educated at Honiton and Charterhouse, where he stayed till 18 years of age, and after a short experience of engineering, and on recovery from an attack of rheumatic fever, he was given a Commission in the Civil Service, and began his career as a Cadet in Fiji in 1884. Two years later, having mastered the language, he was appointed officer of the armed native Constabulary and in 1888 was made Stipendiary Magistrate. In 1892 he was promoted to the post of Resident Commissioner for the Province of Cakandrove, where the success of his administration was mainly due to his unfailing patience and gentleness in dealing with the natives, while further appointments as Superintendent of Police and Deputy Commandant of the Native Constabulary were conferred on him, and in 1897 he was made Stipendiary Magistrate of Levuka and Tailevu, and Commissioner of Lomaiviti. For three years he was Native Commissioner, and in this capacity a member of the Executive and subsequently also of the Legislative Council. During the twenty-two years from 1884 to 1906 Mr. Baxendale only went on leave for one year, but in 1906 he left for England, returning in the following year, when he was made Commissioner of Paphos, Cyprus, and proceeded in November to take up his duties there. Here his interest in ornithology received a great stimulus from the presence of other workers. Sir John Bucknill had invited Mr. C. B. Horsburgh to come out to Cyprus on behalf of the Natural History Society of Cyprus, then recently formed. On his arrival he stayed for some time with Mr. Baxendale, and began to collect birds. Mr. Baxendale was an excellent shot and Mrs. Baxendale was initiated into the mysteries of skinning, so that on Mr. Horsburgh's suggestion and with the help of his wife, Mr. Baxendale began to form a collection of Cyprus birds. This proved a tremendous interest, which lasted to the end of his life. From quite small beginnings the collection gradually increased, until at the time of his

death some 230 species were represented, most of them by two or more specimens, and in several cases the only records for the island. In 1910 Mr. Baxendale was promoted to Famagusta, a more congenial spot and also interesting from an ornithological standpoint. With the outbreak of war in 1914 the work increased and grew more complicated. Each Commissioner became Provost Marshal in his own district. A large Turkish prisoners' camp was formed near Famagusta and a garrison installed. All leave became impossible, and as the heat of the plains during summer proved very trying, it soon became evident, in spite of a short rest under doctor's orders, that Mr. Baxendale's health was failing. He was transferred to Larnaca in 1918, and would have retired in August of the present year, but a severe attack of pneumonia on 6 February intervened, and on 19 February, 1919, he passed peacefully away.

He was twice married, first to Mara Adelaide, daughter of William Hammings of Fiji, and leaves two daughters by that marriage: secondly to Edith Mary, daughter of Arthur Fremlin of Teston, Kent, and leaves two daughters and a son by the second marriage.

During the last nine years of his stay in Cyprus, Mr. Baxendale devoted a good deal of attention to the breeding-habits and eggs of Cyprus birds. Amongst other acquisitions he was able to secure well authenticated nests of the Palestine Warbler (*Sylvia melanothorax*), of which hitherto only three clutches had been found, and was also enabled to prove satisfactorily, for the first time, the fact that several other species bred on the island, such as *Passer hispaniolensis*, *Emberiza hortulana*, *Hoplopterus spinosus*, and *Podiceps nigricollis*. Practically all his egg collection was most generously given by Mr. Baxendale to the writer, but the skin collection still remains in Mrs. Baxendale's hands, and it is hoped that it may find a worthy home in some National Institution.

All who came into contact with the big, good-hearted man will retain pleasant memories of a most kindly, companionable nature, with a real love for nature and a keen desire to

forward in every way the interests of science. Of such men we have too few, and his death leaves us with a sense of irreparable loss.

F. C. R. JOURDAIN.

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We also regret to learn of the recent death of Mr. WILLIAM BREWSTER of Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A., a Founder of the American Ornithologists' Union and one of the best known of American ornithologists. We hope to have a notice of him in the next number of 'The Ibis.'

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#### XXXIV.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

##### *An A. B. C. of Common Birds.*

[An A. B. C. of Common Birds. A pocket guide to the commoner inland Birds of Britain. Pp. 1-64. Price 6d., by post 7d. Published by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, 23 Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.]

This little work in pamphlet form has recently been issued by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and will doubtless be found very useful. The commoner British birds are arranged in alphabetical order, and with each is given a few words of description to assist in identification. The brief notes on the food-habits are arranged under "pro." or "con.," according to whether the birds may be regarded useful or injurious to the farmer or gardener. In many cases a quotation from a recognized authority on the relation of birds to agriculture has been added. Only in the case of three or four birds is the general verdict unfavourable, and in these cases it is owing to their excessive numbers. We notice that very little is said about the merits or otherwise of the Little Owl, on which there has lately been a good deal of correspondence in the 'Times.' The Starling, Sparrow-Hawk, Wood-Pigeon, and Hawfinch all come in for a certain amount of condemnation. On the whole a very just balance is maintained, and we hope that